

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AF-10 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 STR-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-02

RSR-01 /140 W

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R 191435Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1682

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 3194

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NL, PO, MZ

SUBJECT: DUTCH DESIRE FOR INVESTIGATION OF PORTUGUESE WAR
CRIMES IN SOUTHER AFRICA

REFS: (A) LISBON 2657 (B) THE HAGUE 3147

1. SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL SAID JULY 18 THAT GON IS IN TOUCH WITH "OTHER LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES" TO SEE IF COLLECTIVE PRESSURE CAN BE EXERTED ON PORTUGAL TO PERMIT INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF REPORTS OF MASSACRES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. FONMIN, WHO ADMITTED STATEMENTS BY PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER MAKE IT DOUBTFUL PORTUGAL WILL ALLOW INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION, NOTED THERE WERE OTHER WAYS OF EXERTING PRESSURES ON PORTUGAL AND MENTIONED UNGA. FONMIN REITERATED GON POLICY OF SUPPORT FOR FREEDOM MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, BUT STRESSED THIS MEANT EDUCATIONAL AND HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT NOT RPT NOT ARMS. END
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SUMMARY.

2. AT LUNCHEON ADDRESS TO FOREIGN PRESS ASSOCIATION IN THE HAGUE JULY 18 IN REPLY TO QUESTION ON GON ATTITUDE TOWARD ALLEGED PORTUGUESE ATROCITIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, FONMIN VAN DER STOEL SAID GON WAS CONSULTING WITH "LIKE-MINED COUNTRIES" ABOUT WHAT STEPS COULD BE TAKEN TO PRESSURE PORTUGUESE TO PERMIT INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF ATROCITY REPORTS. VAN DER STOEL SAID GON HAD "LEARNED OF THESE REPORTS WITH GRAVE CONCERN AND WE MUST TAKE THE SOURCES SERIOUSLY". HE CLAIMED STATEMENTS BY PORTUGAL SO FAR HAD NOT AMOUNTED TO REPUDIATION OF REPORTS. HE THEN QUOTED STATEMENT TO LONDON EVENING STANDARD BY PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN FEITOR PINTO IN WHICH NOTED THERE WAS GUERRILLA WAR IN MOZAMBIQUE, AND THAT POSSIBILITY EXISTED, ALTHOUGH THERE NO EVIDENCE WHATSOEVER, THAT INDIVIDUAL SOLDIERS MIGHT HAVE COMMITTED CRIMES. EMPHASIZING PINTO'S STATEMENT THAT PORTUGUESE DO NOT BELIEVE CRIMES HAVE BEEN COMMITTED "BUT SUCH THINGS HAPPEN IN WAR", VAN DER STOEL SAID GON DID NOT REGARD THIS AS DEFINITE REPUDIATION OF THE REPORTS.

3. FONMIN SAID GON HAD NO PLANS TO APPROACH PORTUGAL ON UNILATERAL BASIS, BUT WAS BUSY CONSULTING WITH OTHER COUNTRIES ABOUT POSSIBLE COLLECTIVE APPROACH ON INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION. HE SAID FLATLY: "WE HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE REPORTS ARE IN BROAD OUTLINE TRUE AND THAT WHAT HAS HAPPENED IS DREADFUL. IT IS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THAT ONE MUST UNDERSTAND OUR DESIRE THAT THE PORTUGUESE PERMIT AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION." NOTING RECENT STATEMENTS OF PM CAETANO, VAN DER STOEL ADMITTED THERE WAS SLIGHT CHANCE PORTUGAL WOULD PERMIT AND INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION. FONMIN SAID THERE WERE OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO EXERT PRESSURE AND CITED UPCOMING GA.

4. VAN DER STOEL REITERATED LINE TAKEN BY PM DEN UYL (REF B) THAT INHABITANTS OF COLONIAL AREAS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA HAD EVERY RIGHT TO SECEDE FROM "SO-CALLED MOTHERLAND." FONMIN SAID IT WAS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT GON FAVORED SUPPORT TO FREEDOM MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA BUT CLARIFIED THAT HE DID NOT MEAN ARMS BUT EDUCATIONAL AND HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT.

5. COMMENT: FONMIN HAS EXPANDED ON LINE TAKEN BY PRIME MINISTER JULY 13. THERE WAS SOME CRITICISM THIS REACTION HAD BEEN TOO HASTY
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AND ILL-CONSIDERED. PRIME MINISTER REFERRED TO INFORMATION FROM VATICAN. WE ASSUME THIS INFORMATION SIMILAR TO THAT MADE AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY LISBON BY VATICAN CHARGE (REF A). VAN DER STOEL STUDIOUSLY IGNORED RECENT PRESS RELEASE BY PORTUGUESE EMBASSY CLAIMING NO PROOF HAD BEEN OFFERED TO SUPPORT FATHER HASTINGS' ALLEGATIONS AND CRITICIZING GON FOR ACCEPTING WHAT PORTUGUESE EMBASSY LABELLED, "PURELY ENEMY PROPAGANDA". MEANWHILE, IN WRITTEN QUESTION RADICAL PARTY MEMBER IN SECOND CHAMBER HAS

ASKED FONMIN FOR SUSPENSION OF EC TRADE AGREEMENT WITH PORTUGAL
UNTIL PORTUGAL ABANDONS ITS "COLONIAL WAR". RADICAL PARLIA-
MENTARIANS ASKED FONMIN TO TAKE SUCH ACTION IN THE EC COUNCIL
OF MINISTERS. VAN DER STOEL'S EPLY HAS NOT YET BEEN PUBLISHED.
TANGUY

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